

14th December

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K. J. Penniment Esq.
C/wealth Statistician's Office
Canberra

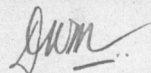
Dear Ken,

We have had occasion recently to use the Commonwealth Monthly Employment Bulletin for September 1944. Several complexities in the form of the table shown on page 5 involved no little trouble in unraveling some errors that appear to have crept in.

As far as the general arrangement of the table is concerned, one or two suggestions ~~seem~~ appropriate. Firstly, the figures shown in each industrial group for each State do not add across to the total shown, owing to the omission of an item for "territories". Admittedly, this item is ascertainable by deduction, but the insertion of a column for "territories" would appear to be desirable for checking, especially as there is space available. Secondly, the female employment in the industrial groups "building, mining, forestry, etc." is included, as you are aware, in "other industries". As it would require only three additional lines, indication of these items separately would seem worthwhile, by adding completeness to the table and facilitating the discovery of errors which may occur. These are, however, suggestions for consideration at your leisure and in the light of any objections of which we are not aware.

But there are several matters of a more pressing nature. In both the Queensland and Total Columns there are a few inaccuracies. For example, in the Queensland groups "other transport and communication" plus "shipping and stevedoring", male employment is 10,900 plus 7,100, and female employment is 4,200, giving a total of 22,200; whereas in "persons" the figure given is 7,500 plus 9,300, or 16,800. "Other industries" appears to be overstated; and the figures given in Queensland "persons" do not add to the 237,800 indicated. Would you examine the table when possible and let us know what amendments are necessary?

Yours faithfully,



ADDRESS TELEGRAMS:—
COMMONWEALTH STATISTICIAN,
CANBERRA.



COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS,

Canberra A.C.T.,

PLEASE QUOTE THIS NUMBER IN REPLY.
KJP/MCF

15th December, 1944.

Dear Doug,

Your letter of 14th December set me thinking how the trouble with Queensland occurred. I must plead responsible, of course, but in fact I have had a junior doing the table concerned and there was no excuse for failing to get Other Industries correct at 39,900 persons as it is (or should be) taken directly off the cards and not (as in case of females) obtained by deductions. Other Transport and Communication should read 14,700 persons and these make the column add. Another error (probably not discovered when proof read) was Other Industries N.S.W. 103,600 instead of 113,600. Am flat out hoping to get to Sydney next Wednesday so will be seeing you next Friday.

Yours,

Ken

given as

284.4

P.S. Am inclined to agree with you regarding figures for Territories but there are some difficulties. I will have the table

D. W. Maitland, Esq.,
C/- Government Statistician,
Box 22A, G.P.O.,
SYDNEY. N.S.W.

check added when in mss. form by inserting a col. for Territories even if it is out ~~out~~ before done.